

Because Government officers are present full time at the few designated landing points, any illegal-sized shell, or shell over quota, can be returned to

the reef, alive. Equal quotas are reissued from scratch every harvest.

Reply to the request for information published in Bulletin #4

*Source: Dr Lyle Vail,
Lizard Island Research Station,
Cairns, Australia*

A request for information on spawning behaviour of tropical holothurians was published in the Beche-de-mer Information Bulletin #4.

A list of observations compiled by Dr Lyle Vail (18/1/93) is presented below.

For two species, *Stichopus chloronotus* and *Holothuria coluber*, it gives the first observations on spawning. The details provided will be very useful for a general analysis.

We hope that other colleagues will have the chance to observe spawning and will send their observations and photos to: Maria Byrne, Histology F13, University of Sydney, NSW 2006, Australia, or Chantal Conand, Laboratoire de Biologie marine, Université de la Réunion, 97489 Saint-Denis Cedex, La Réunion, France.

These observations will be included in the next bulletin.

Holothurian spawning - Lizard Island - 18/1/93

Observer	Anne Hoggett
Species	<i>Stichopus chloronotus</i>
Number	Four individuals spawning out of a group of about 50 animals in an area of about 50 m x 50 m. Anterior half of the body elevated when spawning with a slight swaying from side to side.
Locality	In front of Lizard Island
Date	4/11/90
Moon phase	One day after full moon
Time	18h30 (daylight saving time)
Habitat	Algae/seagrass patch
Observer	Lynda Axe
Species	<i>Bohadschia argus</i>
Number	One individual
Locality	North Reef, Lizard Island
Date	8/6/91
Moon phase	Two days after the last quarter
Observer	Campbell Davies, Gary Russ
Species	<i>Bohadschia graffei</i>
Locality	Lizard Island
Behaviour	Anterior end raised
Date	11/11/92
Moon phase	1 day after full moon
Observer	Brigid Kerrigan
Species	<i>Holothuria coluber</i>
Locality	Watsons Bay, Lizard Island
Date	12/11/92
Moon phase	2 days after full moon
Time	16h00 (about 2.5 hours before sunset)
Depth	6-8 m

Holothurian spawning – Lizard Island – 18/1/93 (cont'd)

Observer	Anne Hoggett
Species	<i>Stichopus chloronotus</i>
Number	An aggregation of about 20 individuals was in an area about half a football field in size. Of these, 4–5 individuals were observed spawning; anterior half of body elevated, slight swaying from side to side.
Locality	In front of Lizard Island Research Station
Date	12/11/92
Moon phase	2 days after full moon
Time	17h00–18h00 (just before sunset)
Habitat	Reef flat, 1–2 m depth
Observer	Anne Hoggett
Species	<i>Bohadschia graffeii</i>
Number	1 only
Locality	North Direction Island, 5 nm from Lizard Island
Date	21/11/92
Moon phase	3 days before new moon
Time	15h30
Habitat	Reef slope, about 3 m depth



Beche-de-mer processing in New Caledonia in the 19th century
 (in: *The fishery resources of Pacific Island countries. Part 2. Holothurians*, by Chantal Conand.
FAO Fisheries Technical Paper, No 272.2. Rome, FAO. 1989. 143 p.)